GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:168
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
SETTING UP OF WILDLIFE CRIME CONTROL BUREAU
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that wildlife crimes in the country are on the rise and the trade is spiralling out of control;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor indicating the number of skins of Indian tigers, leopards and other protected animals seized during each of the last three years and current year, till date;

(c) the routes identified by the Government through which the illegal trade of wildlife skins is being carried out;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to plug such routes; and

(e) the reasons for not setting up the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau so far and by when such a Bureau is expected to be constituted?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 168 REGARDING SETTING UP OF WILDLIFE CRIME CONTROL BUREAU DUE FOR REPLY 13.12.2004.

(a) & (b) The Government is aware of the incidents of poaching of tigers, leopards and other important animals and trade in their parts, products and derivatives, but no specific trend is discernible. The information regarding reports of poaching and seizure of articles related to tigers, leopards and three other protected animals is at Annexure I.

(c)& (d) Since the trade is illegal and clandestine it is difficult to identify the exact routes. The information collected through various sources indicates that most of the illegal trade in tigers and leopards is carried out through various international borders along North and North-eastern Region. The steps taken by the Government to protect the wildlife and check the trade in their parts and derivatives are at Annexure II.

(e) The Ministry has already set up a Wildlife Crime Cell to collect and collate information on poaching and illegal trade of wildlife. No final decision has been taken regarding setting up of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.